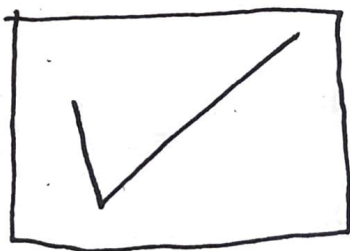
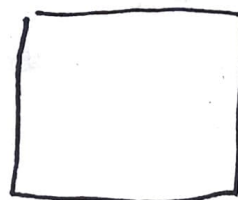


# The OMEN



~~The Climax~~  
~~The A'ostrophe~~  
~~The Communique~~  
~~In Black and White~~  
~~Permanent Press~~  
~~The Phoenix~~  
~~The Forward~~  
The Other Climax



Always the lesser of two evils.

Vol. 22 No. 5 April 16, 2004





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## omen

Volume 22, Number 5  
April 16, 2004

### layout & editing

Jesse Frola      Frenetic Paranoia  
Abby Ohlheiser      Apathy  
Jeffrey Paternostro      Enlightened Self-Interest

Back Cover by Jeffrey Paternostro

THE OFFICIAL OMEN HAIR:

Views in the Omen (5)

Do not necessarily (7)

Reflect the staff's views (5)



## to submit

Submissions are due **Saturdays before 5 p.m.** You can submit by diskette (Mac or IBM) in rich text or plain text format, and typed hard copies will also be accepted, reluctantly. Label your disks well and they will get back to you. Get your stuff to Jeffrey Paternostro, Prescott 98A, x5141. You may also use e-mail. Send e-mail submissions to [jip00@hampshire.edu](mailto:jip00@hampshire.edu)

And be sure to read our policy box at the bottom of the next page before submitting.

Visit the Omen's very simple website at [omen.hampshire.edu](http://omen.hampshire.edu)

Remember, it's not fan fiction unless the words throbbing cock is used at least twice.

Quote Attributed to Jeffrey Paternostro

## HAMPSHIRE DEMOCRAZY!

### Editorial



The people?! The people, sir, are a great beast!

- Alexander Hamilton,  
dead white guy

I spent much of the week trying to think of an appropriate editorial. I knew I had an obligation, both as a student, and moreover, as the editor of the most widely-read (if not most widely printed) publication on campus (Fuck you Climax), to use my available soapbox to contribute to such an important, if hardly new, issue.

Unfortunately, I blew most of my load on the jolt at 2 AM, bored and easy pickings to play along with some guy's questions about office takeovers as some sort of quasi-son-and-daughter-of-hippy ritual. Ah well. I then realized; I had at my disposal a wealth of sources to draw upon. The OMEN has long been fodder for bitching about student governance, student apathy, and student abuse of both apathy and governance. So, seeing as we are running under budget projections for the semester, I made an executive decision to splurge. Starting on page 11, I am reprinting a series of pieces that have appeared over the years in this very fine publication, dealing with some of the issues raised recently about student participation in governance and administration. I will throw my two cents in as well.

Frankly, I have no faith in, nor warm feelings for, many of my fellow students in these matters. Time and time again, you have proven to be lazy about informing yourself on campus issues until the last possible second, much like the six year

old who whines about having to go to his aunt's house, even after he was told all week. The smoking ban, which somehow snowballed into this current insanity, is a stupid idea to be sure. Yet, as usual, despite my agreement with the pro-smokers in principal, they have managed to annoy me with their ludicrous arguments.

(A personal favorite- "What about the poor student that has to deal with the guy next to him smoking cause it's too cold out and there are no more smoking halls". I can only speak for myself, but I'd be more pissed at the asshole, who felt the need to smoke next to me, knowing that this rule is in place, just as I was annoyed my first year when the assholes below me smoked a copious amount of pot (I do mean copious) and my second year, when I had to deal with piss-poor loud bass playing. I don't blame the smoking ban. I blame inconsiderate assholes)

Anyway, the larger issue that seems to have come out of this is lack of student input on these important issues. Nevermind that this was in HAC, which any student can join, for a good long while before it was enacted. And nevermind that no one made half a peep when the first year plan was instituted. ("Well, I got mine."). Instead, let's look at what has happened when Hampshire students get in positions of even meager power: personal agendas see center stage, everyone's pet issues becomes suddenly associated with the college. (I said it before, and I'll say it again, I didn't go to a private, non-religious, non-affiliated school to have my enrollment

continued on page 10

## policy

The Omen is Hampshire's longest-running bi-weekly publication, established by Stephanie Cole in December of 1992. In the past, submissions have included students' perspectives on the campus, administration, news, movie reviews, commentary, short fiction, satire, first born, artwork, comics, and the occasional embarrassing self-promotion. Everything the Omen receives, provided it is sent from a member of the Hampshire community, will be published unless it is deemed libelous or defamatory. Although we find such things amusing and entertaining for countless hours, it is just not an option in this forum. Libel will be considered clearly false or unsupported writing that maliciously damages a person's reputation.

The Omen will not edit anything you write

(except spelling and grammar). You must sign your real name (no anonymous submissions) and understand that you are responsible for what you say. Nonetheless, views in the Omen do not necessarily represent the views of anyone, anywhere, living or dead.

There is no Omen staff, save those positions of editor-in-chief and layout editor. To qualify for community service you must be a consistent contributor and help regularly with layout. Layout times (and such) will be discussed at our meetings. Meetings are held every Tuesday after release of an issue in the Kiva at 9PM. Everyone, everywhere, living or dead, should come.

The Omen loves you.





# (SOLUTIONS TO) THE PESTILENT, THE INEXPLICABLE AND THE DOWNRIGHT SHOCKING

## (PART I)

So I meant to have this article published shortly after spring break but such is life that sometimes other things take precedence over recreational writing! I'm sure you'd all agree that it's been a rather exhausting semester. If not, my piercing intuition leads me to believe that you may well be a Div. III. I'd say more to offend Div. III's, but as you're probably the most likely to read my article, I'll be diplomatic. With that in the background, as I haven't written anything for a while, I thought I'd address a couple of concerns that have accumulated over the course of the semester. As it's awfully easy to be a mere cranky fellow and criticize people for their general lack of sensibility, I thought I'd 'go the distance,' Michael Bolton style, and also attempt to provide seemingly rational solutions.

First off, let's begin with something that isn't too 'alarm'ing. (In comparison to what's in store for Part II at least.) So well, if you haven't already figured it out from the pun above, this concerns the fact that fire alarms just keep going off, again and again in Dakin house. Unfortunately (for me and possibly you), I realize that many other 'commentators' have raised this issue in the relevant publications, so I'll have to 'go the distance' once again and

suggest something slightly different so as to merit your taking the time to read this.

Well, the obvious issue here – having accounted for the political impracticality of an absolute ban – after some 'intelligent reflection' is not that smokers, period, are the problem but rather that a *small minority of irresponsible individuals* exist who continue to annoy everyone. (Hence 'The Pestilent' in the title.) Regardless of being a Buddhist all my life, I'm of the opinion that 'odium' (if applied in a nice enough way) can be a unifying sentiment, and in this case, it's in everyone's interests to *reform* this group. Please note that I'm not making the incorrect assumption that this is a fixed group of people, which it certainly isn't. Clearly, 'these people' refuse to be responsible because they have no incentive to be. In fact, immaturity has its attractive qualities, so perhaps they get a kick out of annoying a good number of people. (I know I do.) The solution, then, is to institute some sort of coercive force, be it social (via sentiment or physical duress) or economic, in a diplomatic enough manner.

This may sound a little Gestapo-like, but if you consider my suggestions it's becomes a fairly clear-cut, prosaic solution and I'm sure we could apply for

funding from the Republican Club, amongst others. (This assumes that Star Parker delivered the appropriate refund.) As I ought not to discriminate, I should mention in the onset that I do not harbor an aversion for Republicans, in fact, I don't think anyone would deny that Republicans and Republican Administrations alike provide wonderful 'entertainment value,' and for this, they deserve nothing short of applause.

Let us begin. First of all, I think all those who wish to smoke (i.e. smokers) should be finger-printed, photographed, prodded in less than hospitable manner on arrival at HC (I'm willing to make this optional) and registered in some sort of database. In order to be realistic I propose we call this database 'People Engaged in, Largely Vulgar, Institutional Smoking' (PELVIS).

Under the pretext of 'added responsibility' we may as well try and dissuade a couple of people from smoking altogether (what economists refer to as a positive externality) by requiring them to fill up an infinity of forms and co-ordinate these matters with their less-than-friendly, resident PELVIS coordinator. Once we have a working database, it then turns to a matter of prescribing some legislation within which smoking is productive for

all concerned, benefits the community as a whole and possibly provides a 'special cultural element' to HC life.

Down to legislation: First off, there needs to be an annual registration fee (say 120 USD) and an interview, during which potential smokers are interviewed by a committee and their right to smoke is then affirmed or denied depending on how responsible they appear to be and the likelihood that they'll be a menace to society. All those who are allowed to smoke must then be subject to three cardinal regulations which I believe will allow us to 'smoke out' this problem, so to speak, in a swift manner:

1.) Investigations will be carried out in to all alarms going off and if it is determined that smoking was the cause of this, a fine amounting to \$50 will be imposed on each registered smoker.

2.) The tuition fees of smokers will rise according to whichever inflation indicator they are presently attached to + 0.577.%. This could be thought of as the Smoking Service Charge. (SSC)

3.) In order to smoke in places aside from residence halls (smoking ones, of course) the candidate must seek approval from a PELVIS coordinator and file the appropriate paperwork, 3 months prior to the date they wish to begin smoking there.

Let us now consider how these laws will benefit us. By imposing a *smoker-wide fine*,

this will (hopefully) cause smokers to be more responsible and in the process motivate *responsible smokers* to target these irresponsible individuals and take the necessary measures (social: you suck, go away... or physical: you suck and I intend to 'help you out') to prevent them from causing further financial distress to the smoking community.

As for the SSC, this will once again be an implicit way of saying that smoking is a self-liability and in doing so, hopefully dissuade them from continuing to smoke. Of course, this also works via social duress where parents of smokers will attempt to convince their children otherwise so as to save a reasonable amount of money.

The final regulation is once again just a reinforcing attempt which targets a universal quality of all human beings, even smokers, (i.e. laziness) and in doing so hopes that all the red-tape will drive smokers nuts and lead to psychological implications. If we assume rational-decision making (is it just me, or do people here appear to roll their eyes at that phrase almost as much as they do at a racist comment?! Social scientists, honestly!) and these individuals are then required to seek therapy, we then have more social duress in the form of professional counselors. This buttresses the aims and claims of responsible smoker friends who are already engaged in the 'rehabilitation' of irresponsible smokers.

Despite the air-tight nature of this plan, I must account for

an obvious short-coming: rich kids. Of course, overwhelming opulence easily allows any irresponsible smoker to bypass these laws and continue being an irresponsible brat. This is a case of another universal quality present in all humans: stinginess. Not in the ordinary sense of the word, but rather, it's somewhat a case of 'motivational moral-requirement relativism,' (ah, philosophy class!) which is essentially to say that, if smoking really is going to give you the high of a life-time, you essentially don't care that your money is aiding the spread of cancer (and therefore shortening the life-spans of) in as many countries and customers as Phillip Morris operates in and 'satisfies.' (More on Phillip Morris in Part II.)

Where the stinginess factor is involved, there are no quick and easy solutions. Perhaps, the only solution is to replace it with a lesser evil. (Given the purpose at hand.) Of course, to avoid sounding too insensitive (and this admittedly is, but so is Bush and no one can deny he's good 'entertainment value!') all I'll say is, back home on the sunny (that's right) Island of Sri Lanka the legal drinking age is 18 and alcohol doesn't set off fire alarms! Clearly, there needs to be a trade-off, one, if my plan is set in to action, which can be subsidized with SSC funds!

Stay tuned for Part II...

Comments? [nileshfernando@hotmail.com](mailto:nileshfernando@hotmail.com)





# MASSIVE SUGAR RUSH = AARON'S 2ND INTERNATIONAL OMEN SUBMISSION

O lads, what's the craic? Fan neomat lé do thoil, agus beidh mé caint Gaile. Tá athas orm; tá mé ag ithe rudi millis. Chomh maith tá mé ag eisteacht le céol. Tá an-craic agam!

The above should constitute another Omen first, that is the printing of (very poor) modern Irish for general distribution amongst the Hampshire student body. I imagine Bob Meagher has made similar achievements in the sphere of academia, and for this I applaud him. However my own contribution is meant to be more plebian in nature, approachable and comforting to the Celtoid-Marxist spirit in all of us.

So what's up Hampshire? How you doing? Any news for me on network crashes or Greg's comb-over? Such a stud.

Moving on, the end of March has blown by and for those of us studying in Ireland it means one thing- MONTH-LONG VACATION. Kudos to the Irish university system for allowing us students to indulge in unrequited whatever-we-wants for ~33 consecutive days before finals. I have a sneaking suspicion this period is intended to boost Ireland's economy via increased pub patronage, but whatever the case I'll take it. My own plans include traveling to the western shores of Ireland, visiting the Dingle Peninsula, Arán Islands, Galway and finally Dublin. Afterwards I go continental to check on Vienna with the parents, then

mozy over to Prague while they fly away home. Me and the Georgian ex-girlfriend (yeah, that was fast. But fuck it.) will spend 4 or 5 days in the gem of the Czech Republic, then come home to the Emerald Isle for everybody's favorite 'reading week' prior to exams. I have a 4:1 ratio of exams:months, so I think everything will go pretty well (i.e. adequate preparation a definite possibility). Only semi-sketchiness to be encountered is an organic chemistry final on May 6th followed immediately by a May 7th rendezvous with Irish food and health in the early 18th - 20th centuries. May 20th I try to make Planck, Beer and Lambert proud of my spectroscopy skillz, and then go hella nuts over vikings on the 24th.

Y'all had spring break earlier in March, right? I only know because I couldn't reach anyone in CASA for three days. . . that and my orientee Zoe e-mailed me that she was on break. Really I just pick up on these kind of things. Speaking of orientees, here's a shout-out to y'all: My dear. Watermelon Warriors. I hope spring semester is treating you well, and I'll do my best to catch you guys come Fall. Turns out I'll be a Hampshire-absentee again, this time ostensibly on 'field study' in Boston. Did you know CASA doesn't like students to move from 'on leave' to 'field study'? Yeah, I didn't either till a couple weeks ago. Hence me trying to contact them. Anywho I'll find some time to stop by for

visiting, and for filing that Div III thing I hear so much about. In the meantime be sure to avail yourself of drag ball and ALWAYS WEAR SHOES outside the library during bell-ringing season.

Now onto my usual semi-philosophical blather.

Living in Cork for the past 3 months has been a fairly intriguing experience. I wonder if those who've traveled in and around Cork might understand this already, but to my American eyes and guts it doesn't appear to suffice as part of 'Ireland'. Much of this sentiment stems from having expectations for a new experience- e.g. living abroad. In this particular situation any values a country actively tries to represent are also a factor, so too regional differences in social and topographical characteristics. With respect to Ireland, one might come to expect green fields, cliffs, down-to-earth people, trad music, a sort of rustic freedom you don't want to define, simple calm, walking alone on a mountain with no trails, and a sense of resistance to modernity tied with strong ancestral traditions.

Now Cork is the second largest city in Ireland, with something like 125,000 inhabitants (total population in Ireland runs about 4 1/2 million, the vast majority in Dublin). As such I should have perhaps expected it to feel a little out of sync with my own ideas of 'Ireland'. Whereas 'America' can often described or defined by its major urban centers, 'Ire-

land' is perhaps just the opposite. Living in Boston, New York, Chicago, San Francisco is living with an energy that fits American cultures and activity; Living in Cork feels like living amongst a miasma of confused foreign influence. We go to the country or the coast to get away; 'Ireland' thrives in such places. I won't say what's good or bad here as I'm just a joy-riding American from Jersey- the point is that I feel like I'm in the midst of the "westernization" of Ireland, but at the same time believe this is a peculiar institution of Cork. My

example of someone 'stuck' in Cork. The girl nearly refuses to travel, this in the face of 9/10 of my university friends stressing the need to do so. Consequently she hates Ireland and has been excited to leave since February. Granted this conclusion may not be wholly fair, but my point is more this city appears as yet unable to offer the excitement or convenience found in so many others and additionally lacks a sound 'Irish' character to fall back on. We can contrast this with Dublin, often referred to as a wannabe London, a place friends and I have had many discussions about this city and the word 'stuck' comes up fairly often, for instance "we're stuck in Cork for the weekend". This can happen with any place you call home for however many weeks or months, but I believe the sentiment is here more prevalent than simple habitude would allow.

Cork makes a very bizarre attempt at being a 'modern' city, at being eclectic, mobile, busy, important. From the perspective of an American it's a little backwards trying to meet the future with streets barely wide enough for two cars, and more pubs per square meter than any capitalist franchise could ever hope for. One of the tallest buildings in Cork is currently being constructed outside my window- a set of banal student apartments. My bizarrely naive roommate Gina often complains about this nascent modernity, and she is actually a good

example of someone 'stuck' in Cork. The girl nearly refuses to travel, this in the face of 9/10 of my university friends stressing the need to do so. Consequently she hates Ireland and has been excited to leave since February. Granted this conclusion may not be wholly fair, but my point is more this city appears as yet unable to offer the excitement or convenience found in so many others and additionally lacks a sound 'Irish' character to fall back on. We can contrast this with Dublin, often referred to as a wannabe London, a place

Part of me is like "oh no!  
Modernity is fuckin' up  
Ireland!

that has discarded much of its 'Irish' character but offers some perfectly thriving city amenities. Galway to my knowledge (i.e. haven't visited yet) still has a firm grasp on 'Irish' character, being situated amongst one of the remaining Gaetacht areas and some truly spectacular landscapes. Cork feels like it has one foot in contemporary urban structure, the other foot clinging incongruously to trad idylls, and a clumsy transvestite with a strap-on busy taking advantage of this apparently ungainly posture. (Perhaps not the most intellectual of metaphors, but I liked trying to personify a city via anal penetration.)

I don't know whether to be annoyed by this feeling or what. Part of me is like "oh no! Modernity is fuckin' up Ireland! Better drive on all the windy back roads before highway construction gets serious". But at the same time it seems reasonable that a western European country in the 21st century should have

at least a few functional cities, even at the expense of some historical identity. The final judge of value for such places is perhaps whether they make life for the native population 'better' or just 'different'. I think I must save such rhetorical musings for another installment of 'The Fool is Pitied', until I have a bit better idea of what the 'native population' wants. However I would urge you to ponder more generally on this distinction- I've found it to be good counsel for many non-Ireland decisions.

Je suis fatigué maintenant. Je voudrais me coucher pour huit ou neuf heures ce soir, et alors il faut que je vais à ma chambre. Si tu peut lire là Français, je voudrais que tu me dit si j'écris avec un bon grammaire, ou bien si j'écris comme un petit enfant de quatre ans. Probablement le deuxième choix. J'ai une amie ici qui vien de Paris, et nous avons un rendezvous chaque semaine pour cuisiner et parler là Français. J'espère qu'il va m'aider et je crois vraiment que ca c'est le cas, mais il reste encor beaucoup d'espace pour m'improver. Merde. . . je dois finis écrire parce-que je deviens plus confusé avec chaque mot (par exemple, je ne sais pas si 'confusé' est une vrai mot. Il reste comme ca maintenant). A plus tard!

Hope you mildly enjoyed this edition of tangential philosophy and bad French. I'm gonna go to bed now, maybe read "The Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy" for the 4th time, and very likely yell at my roommate who's left her burnt fucking pasta in a pot on the stove for the last three days. Cheers!





# HAMPSHIRE'S EQUIVALENT OF A SENIOR WILL

**S**o I'm getting ready to graduate. I'm almost done. I'm almost there. My stomach rises in my throat at the very thought of leaving here and finding a job, and the idea of repaying \$36,125 in student loans (before interest) makes me nauseous. Seriously, the other morning I almost hurled. These physical degradations are to be expected, however, since writing a Div III really is like having a baby. I symbolically spawned my project while swimming in the Gulf of Maine last August, and now, about nine months later, I'm ready to push, push, push until it's out. So this morning sickness, though late in its onset, is not surprising.

In honor of this upcoming event, I've been doing things lately that I've deemed "Hampshire necessities". For instance, I just did one the other day - I posed nude with my baby-love boyfriend for someone's photography-based Division II. Other things I want to do before I go? Visit Emily Dickenson's house, go to the rare book rooms at the other libraries, and make a thank you card for the women at health services for taking care of my feminine realm for the past four years. Most especially, though, I want to ring that damn Division Free bell - I'm gonna shake it like a Polaroid picture. (Mucho thanks to Seth Jensen for his hard work on getting a new bell, and Rebecca Costello for organizing its dedication.)

And, of course, before I leave Hampshire, I have to submit to The Omen. I can't graduate without seeing my name printed in the most controversial and scintillating publication on campus. But what can I tell my fellow students that will instill wisdom and lend guidance at the same time? Dear friends, listen here, for these are my tips for making the most of the rest of your days here at Camp Hamp:

- I. Be involved with a student group. Start one or be a part of one. It gives you clout when you start complaining that other Hampsters don't do shit.
- II. Do your Div II on whatever you damn well please. This is your college, this is your education. You are at Hampshire because this is a place for independent thinking and independent work. Develop your own path and don't let anyone tell you what to do.
- III. Listen to Allison Cook. She's really smart and has a lot of common sense when it comes to figuring out how to get shit done around here.
- IV. Swear a lot. It feels fucking good.
- V. Be older and bitter. It's just a disguise for those who really love this place and won't admit it.
- VI. Ignore the Jolt. Sitting on your ass at your computer and complaining about Hampshire doesn't help anyone. Put your name on shit, Omen style. If you've got something to say, own it. No hiding behind the term "guest."
- VII. When you get to be Div III, start a support group with a bunch of other Div IIIs who are studying the same kind of shit you are. Meet every other week. Even ask for funding. Go to the bar, eat cookies together, seek emotional and academic help from those around you.
- VIII. Drop by your house office more often. They've got what you need (caffeine, condoms, conversation, comfy couches, etc.).
- IX. Help other students out. When someone says they need help with a survey or a project, lend a hand. It, like swearing, feels good.
- X. Be safe, be cool, don't break shit, take care of your friends and yourself. And don't forget to say thanks to the folks who helped you out here - Hampshire's worth it, just wait and see.

By Jennifer Jackson



# KARL COMPETES FOR THE O. HENRY AWARD...AGAIN!

**H**e was a man on fire, and she was a fire-eater.

Nazis poured through the hole in the bunker, and Antonio's risotto was not yet done.

She pressed on the brakes, and SHITSHITSHITSHIT she died.

Having missed Etnal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Ted settled for Temporary Darkness of a Dirty Body.

Young men fell down because the floor was slippery; they also had rough childhoods.

Leopold "Tootie" Homenfeld really beat the fuck out of some guy.

Her heaving bosom sailed out the window, along with the rest of her- which was also being heaved.

"Hey, what's your name?" said the perky sixteen-year old. Pete thought a moment. "Why, my name is WRONWRONGWRONGWRONGWRONG."

Jack and Jill were stereotyped.

Mike picked at his bowl of soap, regretting the author's typo.

Dana had a truck.

Where the hell did Fred put his keys?

**H!A!G!E! VOLUME 19**

**BY JEFFREY PATERNOSTRO**

And now a word from our \*waits\* \*waits\* \*waits\* \*waits some more\* sponsors







# REBECCA SMASH!

A few people have told me that they read and perhaps even absorbed my words of wisdom from my previous article, "The Mod Squad". That's right kids: the lottery is coming up. Resist temptation.

I have a lot of potential topics for this week. "Democracy Day" - Jeff's got that covered. Div III - I don't want to think about that right now. I could tell you about my EPC trustee committee meeting, but half of it is confidential and the rest is too tedious to be worthy of your attention. I've been rolling a "things I hate about Hampshire this week" list in my head for a few weeks now; let's see how much it's accumulated:

1. How Greg threw a fit till they seeded all the grassless lawns around the residential areas last fall, and now the trucks for the Enfield renovations have been driving over the lawn in front of the new Enfield mods and churning them up anyway. Nice waste of money.

2. How Public Safety put the chains back up around most of Enfield. I am not carrying groceries for 5 people in from the parking lot. Your chains will not

stop me. They certainly aren't stopping aforementioned renovation trucks, which have dug deep ruts into the lawn around the chains. And whether or not there are reflectors, people still get hurt riding bikes into those chains, because the reflectors still suck.

3. Not telling interns whether they're hired 'till like, a week before the lottery.

4. How Public Safety is demanding keys back by 2 a.m. for a lot of the spaces that students use. Couldn't we have a time limit that starts when you check out the key? Places like the Tavern need their keys past 2 a.m.

5. The ridiculous "you can't preregister 2 days from now unless you pay your bill which may be thousands of dollars" e-mail sent out to about half the student body. Apparently the Business Office sees absolutely nothing wrong with this policy. I hope someone else does before it's too late.

6. How FiCom has taken some of the couches from the Upper RCC and put them in their office. Nice for you guys to have suede and crushed velvet

couches, guys, but I thought misappropriation was supposed to be something you policed. Far be it from me to imagine the same rules would apply to FiCom as they apply to the rest of the school.

7. They want to start graduate programs here? Since when did this happen? I guess we'll get "input" in a year or two.

8. You know, the Climax has been doing better this semester. Still, do they have to kill quite so many trees? No publication needs that many copies. And listen, Climax kids: you have to understand, the Omen hating you is nothing personal. The bad blood between us runs deep into a stormy past. It would still help if you put out a better paper, though.

Well, that should do it for now. Sorry to be a misanthrope - I know, I sound like Jeff - but it's late and a girl just has to vent. There are a few things I've been excited about lately: the great new yellowbike fleet, the new bell arriving, knitting circle as always. But damn, Hampshire: stop jerking me around.

by Rebecca Costello



continued from page 3

be associated with any issue, anywhere). I don't trust my fellow student, and do not feel he is my fellow at all, to paraphrase another dead white guy.

Okay, so that is as hyperbolic as it is misanthropic, but I have my reasons, many of which are outlined in the articles hereafter. This is also not to say I trust the administration. At all. But I think a requirement of government is that you often have to choose between the lesser of two evils.

Until next time- Seriously Rebecca, the Climax still sucks. What are you smoking?



## EDITORIAL...



## Gaines' Suspension

On Wednesday, April 17, Lorenzo Gaines was suspended from the Chairmanship of Community Council. The vote was unanimous, with two abstentions; Gaines announced his intention not to pursue a re-instatement.

The suspension was the result of an investigation of alleged misconduct on the part of the Chair regarding certain funds of Community Council. The misconduct charges are the latest developments in an exploration of Community Council funds that was prompted by several groups, most notably certain recipients of "Priority Funding," complaining about discrepancies in accounting by the Financial Committee division of Community Council.

The vote took place in West Lecture Hall, when a emergency meeting of Council was attended by a crowd of students, faculty, and staff that outnumbered the capacity of Council's usual meeting place, FPH 105.

After his suspension, Gaines agreed to speak to concerned and curious students in East Lecture Hall. The majority of the crowd in WLH abandoned

the Council meeting to hear the words of the former Chair.

When questioned about the validity of the charges brought against him, Gaines was vehement about his innocence, but vague about his analysis of the situation. Alleging that the proceedings and system are "racist," he refused to comment about the specific issues at hand, a refusal largely facilitated by the particular questions asked by a largely un-informed audience. Adding to the confusion was a memo, circulated by "concerned students," that many assumed was the official report of the Ad-Hoc Committee in charge of the investigation. This was not the case.

Gaines challenged any authors of the memo to step forward and accept responsibility for the document. No one present at either the Council meeting, or Gaines's talk in ELH, was willing to do so.

Gaines left the meeting after much heated debate, after announcing his intention to now be "a regular student."

Stephanie Cole  
News Editor  
The Hampshire Omen





# ALTERNATIVE TO INSANITY

BY DORIAN GUTMAN

It may be the first Omen writer to say that I DON'T think Community Council is a crock of shit. At the same time, I am also one of the people more vocally opposed to council, because I firmly believe that there is a better option for student "governance" out there: the all-community meeting. Why, when we have such a small campus, do we need a representational democracy? If there are decisions to be made, we can make them together, as a community.

Let me make it clear that I have the utmost respect for the members of Community Council as individuals. I think many of them work very hard to try and make this college better, and I think they have the students' best interests at heart. That doesn't mean they need to represent our interests, when we can so easily represent our own. Try and hear me out.

We have a campus of approximately twelve hundred students. If every one of them decided to come to a community meeting, we could still fit in the RCC. There is no reason that everyone who has an opinion can't also have a vote. On a campus this size, direct democracy is a perfectly feasible thing. Issues which affect a large portion of the student body should be addressed by a large portion of the student body. Here is a new plan for how government should be run on Hampshire College Campus.

Every Tuesday at 3:30, there will be an all-community meeting in the RCC. It will be at 3:30 because classes have already been scheduled so that students DO NOT have class then. I wish there were some way to get people with work-study jobs out of work from

3:30 to 5:00, but they should be able to send a proxy voter if they cannot attend the meeting. Meetings should never take a long period of time, because there will be no actual debate, only question and answer sessions. Any debate will have already taken place, as I shall now explain. Agendas for the ACM will be posted, along with the full documentation of any proposals, at least a week before the meeting.

Meetings shouldn't take place more than every other week, unless a campus emergency comes up. The agenda/proposals will be placed on an open forum like the Daily Jolt, where people can debate the proposals once they've been posted. Any changes made to the proposals due to public debate can also be posted on the forum. On the day of the vote, people will show up to the ACM, prepared to ask any questions not addressed on the forum. There will be an overview given of the proposal, questions will be asked, and then there will be a vote. There is no room for actual debate in a meeting with one hundred people or more, but there shouldn't need to be debate.

Everyone can vote according to what they think, instead of having to think for anyone else. As for voting, there are a couple ways we could do it. If it seems like an issue that most people feel one way about, then there could simply be a hand raising, yay or nay, once the proposal was given. If there is no clear majority, then we could have a written vote. Pieces of paper would be distributed to students who would write their answers down and put them in a box on the way out. There could

be a list of students posted on the wall, and people could just check their name off. I honestly don't think Hampshire students would bother to try and throw a vote one way or another. That would take too much effort.

Now, as for who would be in charge of the meetings, that would be a member of the agenda committee. The committee would have no real power, but their duties would be as follows:

1. They would have to monitor the online forum. Not often, just enough to make sure that it keeps running and that any legitimate questions are addressed.

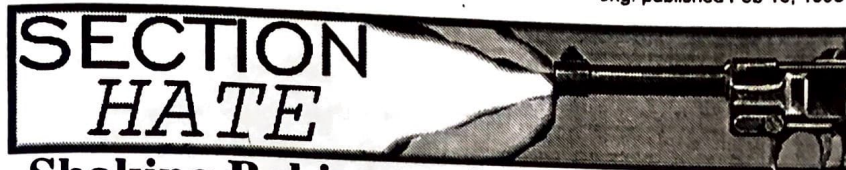
2. They would need to write out the agenda for the upcoming meeting and post it to the forum. If someone has a proposal which they want voted on, then they have to send it to the committee, although the proposer would need to take care of posting it to the forum on their own.

3. The committee would be responsible for meeting with the administration, should it be necessary. They would need to give the results of any vote to the administration.

4. Committee members should stay up to date on all proposals taking place during their time in office, which would be short. I think a semester would be good. Anyone should be able to be on the agenda committee. It could even be like jury duty, randomly selected, except people would have the right to turn it down.

5. Committee members would run the meeting, only not really. They would call on the various people making proposals, and those making proposals would run their section of the meeting. Com-

MON ON NOT PAGE



## Shaking Babies, and Kissing Hands

I am announcing my candidacy for the Student Senate this week. Why did I decide to run? Well, it was actually somebody else that nominated me, but they must have done it for a reason, although I just cannot fathom what it might have been. All I can say is this: whatever your reasons are Stanley, I appreciate the tacit support.

So what am I going to do, or rather, why should you elect me to represent you? To my mind, the reasons are simple, if somewhat naive. Probably the foremost reason for me agreeing to run is that I have no idea what the student government on this campus does, or what it is capable of doing, and there exists no better way to learn than to leap head-long into the unknown abyss. But the very idea that I could be responsible for shaping this community in my own image gives me chills.

Of course, I am completely willing to act as a figure-head for someone more power-hungry than myself, but I suggest you make your offers sweet and soon, 'cuz I'm not going to be some last minute dandy doing the will of an inscrutable toff.

This, of course brings me to my next reason for running,

namely that it is easier to act upon my own interests when I hold a position of nominal power. I will grant that the Student Senate has not made its presence felt for some time, but I feel that, with the right people, we can bring the administration to its knees and force our own wills upon the rest of you. There is truly no better reason to act than to act for your own selfish interests (and, of course, those of your comrades in academia).

Finally, what better way to pad my applications to graduate school than to be able to say that I was a member of the student government? And what bet-

ter way to leave my mark on my alma mater than to pass some hysterical, incendiary legislation. For instance, I could get a rule of primogeniture adopted so that Prince Greg's loin-fruit could run this school ineffectually for generations. Or I could demand that all drum circles be broken up with the help of the National Guard (perhaps we could get the Ohio National Guard to help us on that one).

I will be the first to admit that I don't know anything about the student government here, but you probably don't either. So if ya'll elect me, we can learn about it (and benefit from it) together.

Aaron Mulvaney

### ALTERNATIVE TO INSANITY

### continuations

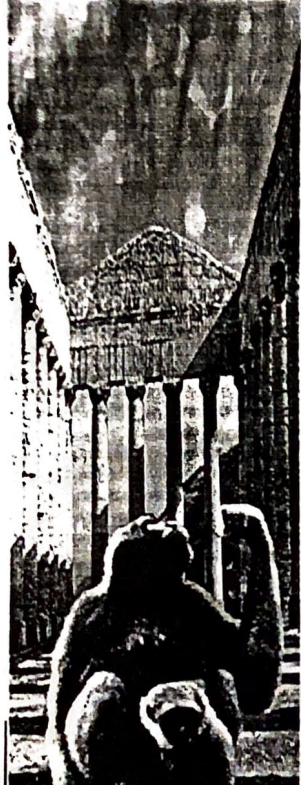
Committee members would only be there to keep track of who is going to talk that day. We do not need a Community Council. We only need people to keep track of the paperwork.

So explain to me why this wouldn't work. Why shouldn't we have direct community involvement instead of a council which most people on this campus either don't like or don't give a shit about? I go to CC meetings. I sit through their endless babble and I come out wanting to take a gun to my head. (And about 'an other peoples') Most people on this campus are very active, but they aren't active in their own campus because they don't think they can do anything or they don't think it's worth it. I'm telling you, it IS worth it to get involved here. Hampshire College is one of the coolest, most innovative places around. But its students don't have much of a voice. I think that could be changed, if we worked together more. Abolish Community Council, but don't abolish the Community.





# SECTION SPEAK



News, Commentary,  
Announcements,  
Propaganda,  
Editorials.

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 1

## WE ACCUSE COUNCIL OF BEING A BUNCH OF LILY-WHITE MAMA'S- BOYS. AND DEMAND THAT THEY KISS OUR ASSES AND GIVE US THEIR LUNCH MONEY

Something is rotten in FPH, and I'm not talking about those carrots that have been in the faculty refrigerator since March 1989. Some of you may know that, at Community Council's final meeting of last semester, some members (and non-members) rushed a vote through that changed the basic composition of Council. Specifically, the attendees of the meeting voted to include a member from SOURCE (Students of Under-Represented Cultures and Ethnicities, a student group) as a full member with voting rights. *The authors of this article do not specifically object to the creation of a representative position for the underrepresented, but we have a number of concerns regarding the methods used to create this particular position and the precedent that is at risk of being set.*

The first and perhaps biggest problem is that Council continues to make decisions despite not having agreed on a decision-making process. [Read that sentence again and let it sink in.] How, you might ask, are they making decisions? Nobody seems to know, especially not Council. The meeting begins with facilitator Isaac Curtis saying, "This meeting is going to be

run for the most part on consensus" (emphasis added), and that votes might be taken from time to time. In practice, this doesn't even come close to working. Motions to vote are made and ignored by facilitators because Council is using consensus; then votes are taken without anyone making an explicit motion to take them. Because Council has not yet agreed upon a process by which to make decisions, we must question the validity of any decision Council makes.

Furthermore, the fact that Council has not decided how to decide has led to immense confusion. Because of the lack of clarity surrounding the consensus/voting issue, many things are happening on Council that probably should not be. Curtis at one point states that "whatever decision-making process we decide on, I think it's incredibly inappropriate to say 'We'll decide the decision-making process, and then we'll decide who gets to decide with us.'" [Author's note: we think he means that Council should allow itself to make decisions on important matters before deciding how it's going to be run, but we got lost between "decides" and are a little confused. If you can translate that sentence for us, we'd be much obliged.] Why does he feel that Council's structure is a low priority compared to issues such as, say, the campus pet policy? Furthermore, why is

BY GABRIEL MCKEE, GWYNNE WATKINS, & CHRISTINE FENNERBER ESJAO

orig. published Feb. 9, 2001



above left: Isaac Curtis and Kaitlin Sopoci-Bellknap; right: Beacon-of-hope Alex Kreit eats a donut

Isaac Curtis—defeated in last Spring's election for Council Chair and not reelected as a voting member in the Fall—facilitating the meeting? When Sarah Finger resigned as Chair in September (a suspicious occurrence in its own right), Council decided to have the Chair position rotate between voting members—why is a non-member now being given the right to decide when votes occur, direct the course of the discussion, and decide who speaks, especially when the non-member in question essentially had that right revoked not one year ago? Why are votes being rushed when the facilitators claim that they want to try to use consensus wherever possible? When

motions are made and seconded, why are they ignored?

Perhaps the most important specific question is: Why did the pro-consensus facilitators force a vote on a matter that a number of Council members stated they were not comfortable deciding on yet? The matter we are speaking of is, of course, the recent decision to add a voting representative from SOURCE to Council's roster. This issue was first raised at the penultimate meeting of last semester, but tabled until the final meeting because many Council members did not feel comfortable with the manner in which the discussion was being handled. In the last meeting, the issue was briefly discussed, with several students voicing similar concerns and commenting that they did not feel well-enough informed regarding the issue. One member suggested holding a secret ballot, but did not make an explicit motion to vote; Kaitlin Sopoci-Bellknap, who may or may not have been a meeting facilitator (it's unclear from the tape) asked "is there anyone who doesn't want to do this by secret ballot?" despite the fact that several students had said they didn't feel comfortable voting at all without further discussion and clarification. Thanks to the speed and irregularity of the "decision" to vote, it seemed that many of the people in the room didn't even know a vote was be-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

DANIEL KANG CONTRIBUTES TO THE DISCOURSE BY CREATING AN UNCOMFORTABLE SILENCE.



9 FEBRUARY, 2001

16 April 2004



ing taken until the process had already begun. What happened to running the meeting "for the most part on consensus"? There was no attempt at getting consensus for the SOURCE representative decision, likely because the facilitators knew that the motion would not pass unless they used a yes/no voting procedure. Under consensus, those opposed to having a SOURCE representative—and even those not opposed to a representative *per se*, but taking issue with some other aspect of the proposal—would be able to keep the issue under discussion into the beginning of the Spring semester, and the facilitators would rather have it passed quickly, without much fuss.

Why might someone suggest that the vote be a secret ballot? The discussion was quite tense, in large part because the facilitator made and allowed comments that suggested that those who oppose the proposal are ignorant and/or racist. At one point, Curtis stated that those not in favor of passing the proposal "don't feel they understand the need for the position [of SOURCE representative]," thus semantically eliminating the validity of any objection to the proposal. This practice—taking the validity out of opposing arguments by characterizing those who state them as ignorant or bigoted—is startlingly common on this campus, and in this discussion in particular. Daniel Kang, a student present at the meeting, contributed the most to the discussion's tension by interrupting other students with statements such as this: "The people who could be running for this position are not on the same playing field as the entire community, I feel, because of white supremacy." After one of Kang's tirades, the room was silent for ten seconds, and the silence was broken by muttering—his accusations, subtle and not-so-subtle, of racism on the part of those who might even consider voting against a SOURCE representative, created a tense and emotionally charged atmosphere in which an open vote could not occur. The statements by Curtis and Kang amounted to little more than intimidation—anyone who voted against a SOURCE representative or sought to delay the vote in order to be better informed would be placed in the same class as the Ku Klux Klan.

We turn now to beacon-of-hope Alex Kreit, who stated in the meeting: "For people to say that the opposition doesn't understand the need for a SOURCE representative—I think that's false, and I think saying that doesn't take into account where people come from." The vote conducted at the end of last semester's final Council meeting (11 in favor of a SOURCE representative, 3 opposed) may be invalid. A number of the individuals who had abstained earlier and had reiterated their desire to put off voting for further discussion changed their minds only after being indirectly declared "white suprema-



above: Kaitlin Sopoci-Bellknap beats the table into submission while Council looks on.

Published in the March 11, 2000 issue of the *Omen*. This was sent to Community Council with the signatures of all members of the *Omen* staff at the time. However, it was never discussed in a Council meeting.

Dear Community Council,

We are extremely upset by the way recent events involving our poster have been handled. We have been wrongly represented by Community Council. Council has used their power to create adversity to *The Omen* and the creators of the poster. They have turned a campus-wide issue into a personal attack.

On Tuesday, February 15th, a completed mock up of our poster was shown at an *Omen* meeting with plans to hang it up to advertise for our meeting in two weeks. On Friday, February 25th, an All Community Meeting was held and the issue of race was discussed. On Sunday, February 27th, we posted for our upcoming meeting. On Monday, February 28th, all of our posters had been taken down and feeling it was a personal attack on *The Omen*, we reposted. On Tuesday, February 29th, a Community Council meeting was held with one of the intended topics of discussion being the poster. We are being accused of posting in response to the All Community Meeting and the discussion of Brady Burroughs' article "Cum on Eileen" from the October 31, 1999 issue of *The Omen*. We are also being accused of specifically targeting women with the intent to hurt them.

When we published Brady Burroughs' article, we were not contacted with any complaints. We were not asked to come to the All Community Meeting to discuss this issue. The specific issue of Brady's article was not even brought up as one to be discussed. When people objected to our posters, we were not contacted. We were also not contacted to come to the Community Council meeting that specifically discussed our posters.

Minimal effort was made to contact *Omen* signers. Hall phones were called when room numbers were readily accessible. Without any *Omen* signers present, Isaac, as Council Chair and facilitator of the meeting, let speculation run rampant in the discussion. He actively promoted an atmosphere that persecuted *The Omen*. This has been a tactic that Council Chair Isaac Curtis has used on numerous occasions. He rouses up the student body and gets them in an uproar about issues behind the backs of the involved parties. This has been the case in dealing with the Sedexho-Marriot prison funding and with the issues concerning Fi-

nancial Aid. One of the results of this atmosphere was a public poll taken in front of the library that was obviously slanted against *The Omen*.

We were not, at any time, contacted about the issue. In fact, we were not contacted by Council until Wednesday, four days after we posted. What we received was an informal e-mail stating that Council had passed a motion that would freeze our funding if we made any further violation of our charter or community norms. Furthermore, they would not refund Wade Stuckwisch the \$9.40 for the cost of duplicating the poster. If we had been contacted, Council would have realized that our intent was not malicious. The poster was not meant to target specific people or groups of people. It was not intended to hurt anyone. Nor was our poster slanderous, erroneous, or libelous and therefore is not in violation of community norms. You may have found our poster offensive or sexist, but those are your opinions and should not be held against us. Wade Stuckwisch should be refunded his money for the poster and we will be filing an appeal. The threat of future action against *The Omen* must also be revoked, as we have not violated any community norms.

In addition, the Council Chair, Isaac Curtis spread malicious, erroneous, slanderous, and libelous statements about *The Omen* on the Internet (again, without ever checking his facts with us). He himself is breaking the community norms as described in Section 3 of the Hampshire College Constitution and could be brought up on Community Review Board charges. In his final post on the Daily Jolt, he proclaims "I do believe very strongly that people who have violated the rules of our college (not to mention basic human decency) need to be held accountable. A community review board and possibly, eventually a court of law will determine the necessary actions. If people feel a CRB is necessary, it is necessary."

The writing in italics has been taken directly from posts by Isaac Curtis in *The Daily Jolt Forum*. His words have not been edited in any way.

"1. the *omen* publishes an article that offends a lot of people

2. people tell the *omen* they were offended"

This statement is completely untrue. We printed Brady Burroughs' article according to our charter of printing whatever submissions we receive as long as the writer signs their name. His article consisted of fragments of badly translated Japanese pornography. Not one person has ever contacted us on the issue. Even now, nobody has come to us and said that this article offended them.

"3. the *omen* publishes an article making fun of the offended people"

We published Brady's response to being violently threatened for his article, once again in accordance with our charter. This article does not make fun of the offended people. This article merely explains his actions.

(in reference to the posters) "in this case the offended parties tried to talk to the offenders and were ignored by some, insulted by others."

Nobody, I repeat, nobody spoke up about the posters prior to Tuesday. One concerned Community member attended our Tuesday night meeting, and was treated politely and respectfully. We received no other phone calls, e-mails, or personal contact, only the tearing down of every poster we put up. We would never ignore any such concerns, nevermind insult them. This is a blatant act of libel.

"the *omen* proceeded to put up their posters, targeting women's center posters, council posters (about the race/gender meeting), body image group posters and posters for a lecture about the sexual exploitation of Asian women." (From another post) "The *Omen* is disgustingly out of line. These posters were placed over posters by Community Council, the Women's Center, the Body Image Group, and those advertising the movie about the Korean comfort women."

When we poster, we always take special care not to cover any poster that hasn't expired. We personally hung every poster. We never postered specifically over any posters. In fact, when the



body image group posters were placed over ours in retaliation to this "targeting." we merely removed them and rehung them nearby. Another blatant lie.

"This reaction is clearly in response to the recent discussion about race/gender issues at the all community meeting."

As I have already stated, this poster existed long before the meeting. The poster was designed to get more people to submit to *The Omen* and come to the open meeting, not to specifically attack and hurt people.

"There were several *Omen* members at the All Community Meeting, and at least one specifically in the race discussion."

While it is true that several *Omen* staff members attended the All Community Meeting, none attended the discussion on

race. We were aware of race and gender discussions in general and felt that this would still be an appropriate time to put up our poster, in part to protest campus censorship.

These posts by Isaac were made without any effort to contact us to verify these facts or to get our explanation.

A community leader like the Community Council Chair should be impartial. Isaac Curtis judged us without trial and jumped to conclusions about our intent. He rallied people against us rather than discussing the issue peacefully with us. This was accomplished by spreading lies and rumors slanted against us. He created an atmosphere that was decidedly anti-*Omen*. We were not contacted in any way or

given the chance to defend ourselves. Whatever happened to innocent until proven guilty? He is obviously influenced by his own bias, and has behaved unprofessionally and irresponsibly as Community Council Chair. This has happened on several other occasions. This is unacceptable behavior from a leader of the community.

We demand a written apology and a retraction of these statements from Isaac Curtis. This statement will be published in *The Omen*. We request that this apology and retraction also be published in *The Forward* and *The Daily Jolt*. We also demand that he step down from his position as Community Council Chair as he is not fit to hold this position.

Sincerely,  
The *Omen* Staff



## FROM THE EDITOR



BY MICHAEL BRANN/PERCE

If you haven't heard yet, Community Council is in shambles. Elected Chair last semester, Sarah Finger resigned at the last meeting, saying that she needed more time for her own studies and didn't want to take on something she couldn't dedicate her whole self to. Although this is a good enough reason to stop doing anything, the fact remains that some personal animosity seems to exist in the Council (especially surrounding this ordeal), and although that is subject for another article, another fact remains that Sarah's recent abandonment has left the Council wondering what its next step will be. With a council made up of less than half of the voting members needed to even run Council in the first place, the question that pops into my mind seems pretty blatant: why the fuck are people leaving Council?

Maybe it's because there are certain people in Council who make Council a bitter, personal battle instead of a professional meeting to discuss matters of the student body. Maybe not.

Maybe it's because Council truly has no power and the remaining members are slowly realizing this. Once again, maybe not.

Since the question asked is a valid one, it is usually a good idea to attempt to find an answer in order to find a solution. However, in this case, an answer may be hard to find since the Council is made up of politicians. Maybe they are good natured ones, but they are politicians nonetheless, caring more about their personal reputations than the students. The community wants answers, but no one is willing to give an honest one, especially when each meeting is now being taped by INTRAN. So, since there is no answer, we will have to skip

to a solution.

My solution: a new Community Council. That's right: Brand Spanking New Community Council. My suggestions for this Council: many. First of all, the remaining members of Council must be dedicated to remaining, and become willing to teach the new members of Council (once elections take place) how exactly Council works, but at the same time, also be willing to step back and let the new members stretch their political tentacles.

Second, Community Council must become more community oriented. Now, before I explain this, I do not entirely blame Community Council for the community's seeming uninterest in the Council and what it does. In fact, I find the community at large to be more the blame. Why? Because no one fuckin' cares about anything other than themselves.

I just don't get it. Hampshire College is synonymous with Freedom, but when offered the freedom, many students take it upon themselves to hide away. People still get through all four years of Hampshire and never really understand the system that runs their education. A lesser number even bothers to become a part of it. So, instead of using their \$33,000 freedom, they abuse it by not doing anything at all. What do they do instead? They smoke pot.

Yeah. All you fuckin' pot smoking assholes out there, why don't you actually do something other than eat all of your roommate's fuckin' food? Go out and become a part of this community instead of baking in your room. Who are you helping by doing this? Oh wait, that's right - you. All you want to help is you. But you know what, all the while you are doing this, the campus is literally falling apart around you. Because you didn't act sooner, Community Council is falling

## continuations

## FROM THE EDITOR

apart, student liberties are being taken away, and before you know it, because of dumb shits like you, we are going to be taking tests and quizzes soon just so Hampshire College can afford to stay open for another two years. And I mean this - SERIOUSLY.

With that said, I feel that Community Council needs to reach out to these pot smokers and hippies and activists and get them involved. I believe that the Council needs to be recognized by the community at large. Everyone in Dakin should know who their Council representative is and where they live. The same goes for Greenwiche, Prescott, etc. I believe that Council should put out a bi-weekly newsletter, maybe one page long, in SAGA, the post office, or better yet, in each person's post office box. It might end up being a waste of paper, but it could never be as much of a waste as the *Forward* each time it prints.

I believe that Community Council meetings should be moved into SAGA on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30, bi-weekly (which is when the Council currently meets). I believe that people should be able to get into SAGA for free on those days between 3:15 and 3:45. Even if they weren't to join the meeting, at least the community (the dorms and mods) would come together for one time every couple weeks to see people that they've maybe never met before.

I believe that SAGA also needs some media present in its fine establishment. It either needs multiple TVs with INTRAN playing, or it needs a large message board displaying campus events,

meetings, Community Council dialogue, etc.

With this in mind, I believe that INTRAN should be used to hold live debates between the upcoming candidates in the Community Council elections. I believe that the campus should be informed about who they are electing into council. This is important. Council truly does have as much authority and power as the members give to making council work. The Council could disappear, or it could actually make decisions that affect YOU.

I also feel that Community Council needs to get more of the higher-ups to start showing up. Council is supposed to have four Faculty members at each bi-weekly meeting. I've been to two, and I don't know if any have shown up yet. The faculty have to take it seriously in order for the students to take it seriously. Have Greg Prince come to a meeting or something - that ought to bring the people to you.

Community Council directly affects housing policy, the community norms on campus, as well as heading and delegating the subcommittees: FiCOM and COCD being the two that fund student groups and allow you to get free pizza or buy permanent equipment. How could you not want to be a vocal part of the one group on campus that can affect how much free stuff you get, you dumb fucks?

Why do I even care, you ask? Well you know what? I don't. I really don't care. In fact, when everyone on campus begins to not care, and hide themselves away in their little plastic rooms puffing

# SECTION HATE

We hate so  
you don't  
have to.





## FROM THE EDITOR

## continuations

FROM PAGE 9

away, I'm in the library studio, into the media and distribution making *Omen* TV, or putting together the recent issue of the *Omen*, or making sure that INTRAN has plenty of good stuff that I've made on it at all times. I mean, just because no one else is willing to put some effort

just have to fucking take over and show you just how the Editor-in-Chief of the *Omen* would run it.

Don't make me bitch slap all of you and your moms too just to get you off your asses.



volume 15 number 3

orig. published Apr. 15, 1999

## Apathetic AssMasters Anonymous

by Garth Laid

People complain. They say that us Hampshire students are all uninvolved. We don't care. We rant about empty radicalism; here at the *Omen*, we put a whole magazine out which has no message; we all put together our articles at the last minute; we are as bad as the rest.

People talk about student apathy. I think that it is a problem, but people are involved some of the time. I wish that we could all be invested in the campus, but I, for one, have a lot of irons in the fire. I don't have the time to fight the administrators or fix the world's ills. I barely have time to write this *Omen* article. Despite all of Hampshire's problems, I still like it here.

I am invested here. I want to stay. I have been told that I am apathetic because I don't pay attention to Community Council and I ignore the changes in rules. **I am not apathetic. I am focused. I may be accused of disgusting self-interest, but not apathy.** I am concerned with events on campus. I just don't have the energy to fix all the problems, so I ignore them and focus on the good stuff.

Hampshire draws students who become focused on their own lives. We (the collective student body) have a lot of stuff going on. I know students in NS, in Theatre, Film, and other areas of the college. Most students I know aren't apathetic. They are tired and busy. The self-interest that people interpret as apathy may be a problem, but if we don't cut down on the expectations we have for ourselves, we don't have the time for school politics. For those people who work to change the school, priority is given in different places. For those who want to be political, there are opportunities. I don't choose to be involved in politics, but I am not apathetic. I pay attention to special interest housing, to the Div. I, II, and III policies and the new faculty. I have been on committees and joined groups, signed petitions and written letters. The fact is we need to find ways to support students, not ways to berate their apathy. I like my apathy; it is my own.

## H!A!G!E! VOLUME 20

BY JEFFREY PATERNOSTRO

I received a letter from my publishing company today.

Dear Sir:

We regret to inform you that your novel *Moby Grape* is obviously just *Moby Dick* with the cover replaced.

Aww... shoot



## TWO TOPICS, ONE ARTICLE, TWICE THE FUN

by Abby Oniheliser

Oh. My. God. Did you see that? Jim Carrey is the shit!

Yeah.

I finally saw *Eternal Sunshine of the Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. It is, in my opinion, the best of the Kauffman Movies I've seen. I haven't seen all his films, so I'm not going to risk exposing my ignorance (or something) of just how great that shit was in a review of the film. Instead, I'll list the parts that made my stomach turn (in that pre-natal John the Baptist way instead of the SAGA digestion process way. Tee Hee! I made fun of SAGA!) Here goes:

Seeing Jim Carrey do subtle

Every time I figured out one of the kind of cool connections (early and often)

When we see the waiting room, with all those people holding somebody else's life in a box.

The pigeon scene.

I guess, the concept.

So talk about it with your friends, bring it up in your class, ask me about it, but don't read reviews written by first-year college students who don't really know what they're talking about.

I'm more qualified to review (Read: write about with a generous insertion of my opinion) that crazy born-again cartoon friend, Lambue! Lambue! of objective.jesussave.us/kidz.html, is a woolen turtle-neck sweater wearing lamb who

wants to be your friend!

Oh yeah, and he wants to share his love for Jesus with you, too. And why is the word kidz spelled with a "z"? because the "z" is for "zealousness!" Come along and meet his friend, Ruby the lioness, who must prove

herself worthy to be Lambue! wife by matching the husband and wife of biblical couples! Watch out

for Mr. Gruff, the coffee-dependent atheist who will lead you away from Jesus's love! Tell your parents if you find an atheist in your neighborhood, kids! Then there's poor Habu, the confused Hindu, who has so many gods that he lost count, and Professor Giraffenstein, whose gift from God seems to be opposable thumbs. I almost forgot to mention the Kanga-Jew, complete with huge snout and Hebrew speech bubble.

I probably spent 4 hours of this week looking through this website (there's an adult section too). Highlight: the 3D nail cutout in the crafts section (bloodied and with "Sorry, Jesus" written on the side), and the Creation Science Fun Facts.

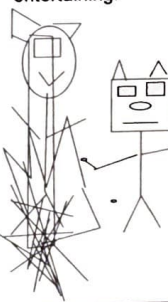
Here's the thing: I'm not sure if this website is a joke, even though everything about

tells me it should be. It's just too involved. It advertises for websites such as the Christian business search engine ("I don't want to give my money to Non-Christian businesses!"). Objective.jesussave.us has a section devoted to the Hallow-

een Reclamation movement, an actual idea. And then there's the reason that I don't feel bad about employing more irony than I feel comfortable with when discuss-

ing this site: they have a section devoted to making fun of evolutionists. Perhaps even more ironic (grr) is that I find some evolutionists crazy, myself, but if they're going to have a section called "those wacky evolutionists," then I'm allowed to write a "those wacky Christians-" type article. Right?

Anyway. I still don't know if this is a joke, but it's really entertaining.



The article goblins burn a heretic at the stake



"That'll be eleven-fifty," Lu Bu sighed. His shift was almost done, but he still couldn't help feeling exhausted. Working front desk always sucked. He glanced at the clock, noting with increasing despair that the minute hand hadn't moved even an inch since last he'd checked. "Twenty more minutes," he muttered under his breath as he answered the phone. "Empire Records, open 'till midnight, Lu Bu speaking," Lu Bu responded on instinct. For seven months he'd been answering phones the same way, and for seven months it had irritated him every time. He loved working at Empire Records; he loved the free pizza, he loved his co-workers, he loved getting paid for listening to music, he loved it all. Rather, he loved it all EXCEPT for answering the damn phone.

Lu Bu, age 16. Born Louis Bouleneux to a French businessman and a Chinese holistic herbalist, he grew into a masterful hockey player and music connoisseur. Currently a sophomore in Southern Regional High School in southern New Jersey, he has taken a job at Empire Records to pay for his dream car. Typical characterization, right? Well, it might be, had it not been for the lunar eclipse on the exact moment of his birth, which allowed for the restless spirit of an ancient Chinese warrior to merge with his soul. Ironically, Louis embodies the very essence and soul of the true Lu Bu.

"Twenty-two dollars, please," Lu Bu muttered as pleasantly as he could. Suddenly, a red light flashed. "Oh no," thought Lu Bu.

"The red light has flashed! That can only mean that the hordes of goblins have escaped from Nerima! I should call my friend Ranma." Lu Bu then called his friend Ranma. "Ranma! Dude! The red light is flashing over here. Have the hordes of goblins escaped from the Japanese shrine?"

"Yes, they have!" said Ranma. Obviously, Lu Bu was friends with the dubbed version. "Can you teleport over here and help us out? My lazy ass panda father is on vacation fucking Sailor Mercury. Mega Man is holding down the fort at the dojo while Ryoga and Link are trying to re-seal the shrine. Mario is useless; he's hopped up on shrooms again. We really need you dude," Ranma pleaded.

"I get off work in 10 minutes, but I'll ask my boss if I can leave early. I'll be there as soon as I can," replied Lu Bu. Hanging up, he idly wondered whether his long-distance calls to Japan would be poorly received by the management. "Hey, Crono! Can you cover front desk for me? I have to go save Japan."

Crono replied, "..."  
"I hate you, you know that," spat Lu Bu.

Crono replied, "..."  
"I have no idea how you got Marie to suck your dick. Seriously, you need to say something, asshole. After I get back from helping Ranma, I'm going to kick your ass!" Suddenly, a siren blared. "Shift change! I'm done!" With that, Lu Bu cast a magic spell. In a flash, he vanished.

When Lu Bu reappeared in

Nerima, Japan, he was greeted with twenty goblins rushing him with the intent to rend him limb from limb. He grabbed one by the head and swung it as a club against the others. They exploded in eruptions of blood. Lu Bu then conjured up his magical hockey stick and started walking. He had a lot of goblins to kill.

Several hours later, all the protagonists were sitting in the public baths of Nerima, Japan, where the anime Ranma 1/2 takes place, after washing off all of the blood and goblin guts. Mai Shiranui's top had, as always, fallen off in the first two minutes of fighting, and she hid herself beneath the water. The bath had an uncomfortable silence, as Akane Tendo and Female Ranma were having extremely loud lesbian sex in a nearby bush. Ryoga and Zelda were making their way to a private room, obviously to join in the mer-making. Mario was still shroomed off his ass, and was complaining that the water was actually lava, and strange flying fish were jumping at him. Soon, only Link and Lu Bu were left in the bath.

"So, Lu...wanna...you know..." Link started. Lu Bu blanched. Suddenly, and luckily, an angel appeared before him.

"Hi cutie! My name's Serra. Wanna fuck?" the angel asked.

Lu Bu did not look away. "HELL YES!" She enveloped him with her wings and significant cleavage.

They had crazy sex for eleven hours.

Link cried.



by Jeffrey Paternostro and Jesse Frola

JF: Have you been watching RAW lately?

JP: No, but I've been keeping via the internet.

JF: It doesn't suck anymore.

JP: SO I hear, but Smackdown apparently is terrible.

JF: Oh god, is it. They have this guy, Bradshaw, who's an asshole and that's basically his only merit. He's also a cocky redneck stereotype, and he's not very good at it.

JP: He's been around forever, and he's always sucked.

JF: Fucking Bradshaw.

JP: The thing about Bradshaw, is he is a big guy, loyal to the company, and a supposed locker room leader, that = multiple pushes.

JF: What the hell is a locker room leader?

JP: Well, in the WWE nee F, it seems to consist of towing the company line, and rumor has it, violating people in the shower as a version of hazing. But that is just rumor.

JF: Yes, and we all know that you get your information through the miraculous truth that is the internet.

JP: If it's on the internet, it must be true!

JF: No, seriously, about Smackdown. Let's talk about the redeeming features of Smackdown, such as they are.

JP: So basically, you mean Eddie Guerrero?

JF: ...yeah. Wait, wait wait! Spike Dudley!

JP: I liek Spike okay, but the thing about Eddie, is he has made a career of taking shit like

this and turning it into something interesting. Now, if he can do that with Bradshaw, he will officially be deserving of the title, YOUR Latino Jesus.

JF: I concur. What about John Cena.

JP: Well, Cena's not actively bad. And all the high school wiggers, I'm sure love him. That said, his offense is kinda ass, outside of the weak fistdrop, and the Fireman's carry slam.

JF: I would just like to say that I am absolutely sick of stupid as taunts. Cena is pretty all right with the "You Can't See Me" but his fistdrop is abysmal. And the stereotypical Frenchman dance is nothing short of painfully racist.

JP: Well, the WWE, nee F, has never been one for cultural sensitivity. Wrestling after all, is all about angering little kids and idiots. But you are right about the fistdrop. I love fistdrops. Ted Dibiase had (and probably still has) an awesome fistdrop. Lawler has an awesome fistdrop. SUWA, you bet, has an awesome fistdrop. John Cena's fistdrop is best summed up with the word ASS. Didn't he work in OVW with Bobby Eaton. Bobby really should have taught him how to do a fistdrop, since his is pretty cool too.

JF: All right, I'm done with Smackdown, back to RAW. RAW is pretty damn good. I wish they would give Matt Hardy a better part, but the whole Jericho/Trish/Christian thing is actually more entertaining than it should, by all right, be.

JP: Jericho is always good for carrying his end of lame angles. And actually, their Wrestlemania match was pretty damn good. Although Christian needs to diversify and stop using the damn chinlock all the time. And the turn was kind of non-sensical if you think about it too long, but really, this is the WWE, nee F, so you shouldn't think about it too hard anyway.

JF: Or at all. Oh, here's something. I like what they have done with Shelton Benjamin. He's much, much better than Charlie Haas for carrying his weight as a singles competitor. And with the push he is getting, I gotta say it's pretty cool. Not to mention Evolution is kinda fucking stupid, and I'm getting sick of it, so Shelton gets a plus in my book.

JP: Well, Shelton is gonna be a breakout star, but if you don't think HHH gets his win back when it actually counts, you have not been watching the WWE, nee F, long enough. It is after all the HHH show. It kinda reminds me (and I am cribbing this idea from elsewhere) of the Poochy episode of the Simpsons. HHH = Poochy. If HHH isn't around, everyone should be asking "Where's HHH." That is essentially the force behind RAW.

JF: Which is pretty damn sad. Rock is a better heel any damn day of the week. And all HHH has going for him is a very nice Irish Whip.

JP: Yes, that and he's banging the boss's daughter.





# THE OMEN PRESENTS...DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD



**The Great Sasuke**  
Member of the Iwata Prefecture  
Local Government

**1994 Super J Cup Runner-Up**  
**First J-Crown Champion**  
**Broke Skull Twice in Matches**

**Committed to Mask-Wearing in**  
**meeting sessions**



**Jesse Ventura**  
Former Governor of Minnesota,  
Reform Party

**Former Navy S.E.A.L.**  
**Pro Wrestler for W.W.W.F, A.WA, and**  
**W.W.F.**

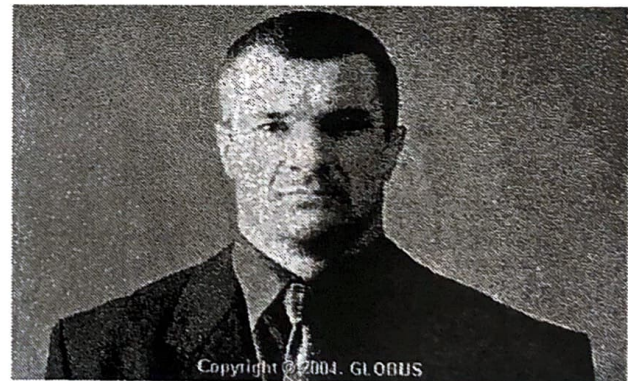
**Committed to putting a wrestler in**  
**the White House in 2008**



**Alexander Karelin (top)**  
Member of Russian Parliment

**Three Time Greco-Roman Wrestling**  
**Gold Medalist**  
**Master of Sambo (Russian Judo)**

**Committed to Crushing all opposition**  
**like a bug**



**Mirko "Cro Cop" Filipovic**  
Member of the Croatian Senate, Social Democrat  
Party

**The Pro Wrestling Hunter**  
**Champion Kickboxer**  
**Only One Loss in Mixed Martial Arts competition**

**Committed to Left High Kick, and Leftist politics**